3-4-93

One-man show sponsored by BSU for Black History Month. See Page 4.

Los Angeles Valley College

Valley Star

Van Nuys, California

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Aid affected by budget

By MILES GRANDFIELD
Staff Writer

According to financial aid experts within the Los Angeles Community College District, Governor Pete Wilson's budget proposal for California community colleges will have a devastating effect on the district's student aid program if it is enacted.

In a presentation to the LACCD Board of Trustees at Pierce College on Wednesday, Feb. 24, a panel of college administrators and students from several of the district's campuses predicted a situation of greatly increased demand for financial aid, and reduced availability of funds as a result.

The Governor's proposal would raise the cost of classes from $10 to $30 per unit, which would mean that a student who now pays $240 a year for 12 units would have to pay $720 beginning next fall.

Based on a state-wide drop in community college enrollment of 114,000 students, which the panel said was due primarily to the $4-per-unit increase in fees implimented this semester, state officials project that 24,000 students in the LACCD will be forced out of school because of an inability to afford the higher cost of enrollment. Their only recourse will be to apply for financial aid, according to Ron Dyste, chairman of the panel.

"This proposal is an absolute disaster," said Dyste, who spent nine years in the state chancellor's office before becoming dean of Student Services at East L.A. College this semester. "Because of the increased costs, the impact will be heaviest on the least wealthy among the student body, Dyste said. "Los Angeles has the poorest community college student body in the state. It means that a lot of the students who in the past have not applied for student aid are going to apply."

This will mean even longer lines at the financial aid window in the Student Center and a probable extension of the time it presently takes to process a student aid application, according to LAVC Financial Aid Manager Ruth Siegel.

"As a result of higher fees, and because of recent changes that open more aid programs to middle class students, more people will come in for assistance," Siegel said.

At present, students are told that if their applications are filled out correctly, they can expect a wait of two to three months before they get their money, according to Siegel.

But that could change if additional office staff are not hired to meet the expected flood of new applicants. "We are shorthanded now," Siegel said.

The degree to which the availabity of funds will be affected by the Governor's plan is unclear since the majority of students' aid is a combination of federal and state grants, work-study programs and loans, Dyste said. So far, students have not been denied assistance because of a lack of funds, but that may change owing to increased demand and the three-fold increase in tuition costs that the funds will have to cover.

"The student aid delivery system within the district has been unchanged for seven years," Dyste said. "There is no way that they are going to be able to cope with this type of demand."

ALMA GONZALEZ / Valley Star

A pedestrian walks by one of the most popular places on campus to spray graffiti at the corner on Hatteras and Coldwater Canyon.

Graffiti grows on campus

By STEVEN KOSOY
Staff Writer

The rise in graffiti is a campus-wide problem, Building and Grounds Administrator David Ogne said last Tuesday.

Campus Police Office Lieutenant Robert R. Reeves said that once in a while gang members come on campus committing graffiti, although it is not a prevalent situation.

Reeves said that there is a large number of gangs in the San Fernando Valley. At one time the number of gangs in the Valley was 22, now that number has risen, Reeves said.

"One would think it would be a hard-core gang member," Reeves said of graffiti vandals, but that is not always the case. "Often it's misguided teens who haven't learned to respect property or people."

There was a little slowdown of graffiti on campus when Grant High School was on winter break, Ogne said. Although he added that it was probably neighborhood people responsible for the graffiti as well.

He said that the demographics of the neighborhood is changing, which is a factor of why there is an increase in the amount of graffiti.

Ogne said that graffiti can be found not only on the outside of buildings, but in the restrooms and class rooms as well.

However, Reeves said that graffiti is not a large campus problem.

The majority of it, Reeves said is contained on the compactor wall at Hatteras Street and Coldwater Canyon.

Reeves said the graffiti is a "sort of advertisement" for gangs. "Gangs like to mark their so called turf. Often you'll see graffiti marked over with other graffiti from gangs that enter the area."

When graffiti is found, the custodial staff removes it quickly. "We're committed to eliminating it as fast as possible," Ogne said. "If you leave it up, it looks like an invitation to the next guy."

"It's part of the broken window concept," Reeves said. "If there is any damage done to property, the sooner it is repaired, the better."

"A little vandalism leads to further destruction," Reeves said.

Ogne said that they will try to use graffiti remover, or if a surface is too porous for the graffiti remover they will patch paint.

For this reason they try to standardize the paint colors so they can patch paint it without problems, Ogne said.

The compactor wall has been treated with a special graffiti resistant paint, so graffiti can be washed off, Reeves said.

"Graffiti resistant doesn't mean graffiti proof," Ogne said. A product that is supposed to be graffiti resistant is still a challenge to clean.

"The materials they use have become more resistant [to being cleaned]. They don't use cheap stuff," Ogne said, explaining that they often use automobile enamels.

Reeves said that because the sale of spray paint to teenagers was outlawed, many are using wide felt-tip markers for graffiti.

Ogne said the maintenance crews are using a few techniques for deterring graffiti, including growing heavy foliage, and the change of color of the buildings. Ogne explained that when a wall is painted dark green graffiti does not show up as well.

The higher police presence has also improved the situation, Ogne said.

"The campus police deserve a lot of credit for holding it down to a minimum," Ogne said. Reeves said that credit should also be given to Administration of Justice students as well. These are students who take courses in law enforcement and police techniques who aid the police. Reeves said they keep a high profile which acts as a deterrent.

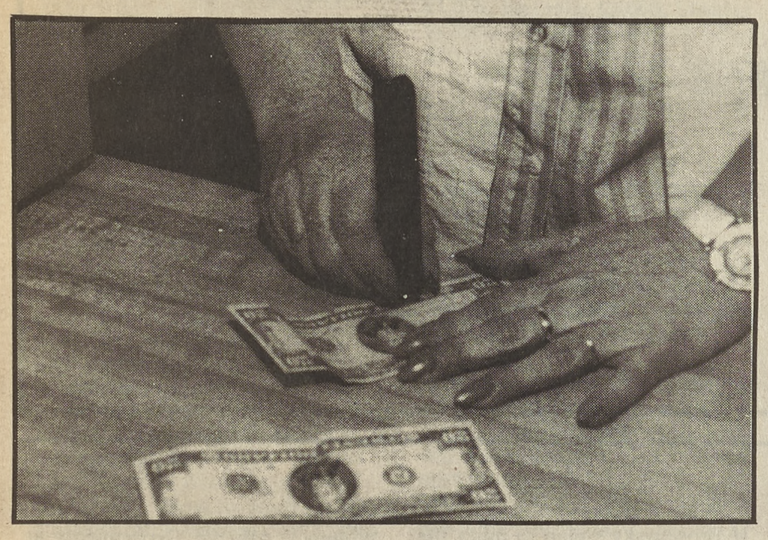
Reeves said that graffiti is a misdemeanor. Anyone found guilty of committing graffiti is subject to a $500 fine or up to six months in the county jail.

However, Reeves said, it never happens unless it is an aggravated situation.

Reeves said that it is extremely difficult to catch a graffiti vandal because they usually do their work in the early hours of the morning.

"It takes so little time to mark the wall or whatever that the chance of catching them is slim," Reeves said.

Ogne said that it is a shame "as much of our time and resources has to go to that when there's so much else we could be addressing. We could be working inside classrooms instead of out."



MARTI HARLOW / Valley Star

A snack bar worker scans all $20 bills to make sure that they are not counterfeit. Scanning was implemented on campus this semester.

Funny money found out

By ANDREW SAMUELSON
Staff Writer

New scanners, which can detect counterfeit $20 bills, were given to the bookstore and cafeteria by the school at the beginning of this semester after a few fake $20 bills were passed in the cafeteria last semester at Los Angeles Valley College.

The scanners are shaped like an outline marker and pass over the bottom of the bill to prove their viability.

Since the $40 detectors have been in place, not one counterfeit bill has been received at the bookstore or cafeteria this semester.

Last semester, the cafeteria received three counterfeit bills according to Albert Fierro, the cafeteria manager.

"We did not discover that they were fake until we took them to the bank," Fierro said. "By then the person was long gone."

Claudette Burns, the bookstore manager, said they have taken precautions in the past to prevent this crime from happening, including going to the bank and learning from them all there was to know about counterfeit bills.

"They told us to look for the red and blue threads inside the bills," she said. "But, with the new bills, it's hard to see the threads."

Burns said they also work closely with the campus police and when they do receive counterfeit money, the bookstore reports it immediately to them.

Captain Karl Traber of the campus police said they have received reports of a few incidents of passing phoney money on campus in the past, but none recently.

"When five counterfeit bills are received at one location on campus then we contact the Secret Service," Traber said. "Until then, we deal with it and there is not much we can do because by the time they realize they have a counterfeit bill, the person who passed it is long gone."

He said the best way for a business to prevent the fraud is to purchase the scanners that the bookstore and cafeteria already have.

Publisher's prices go up

By HARRIET STEINBERG
Staff Writer

Publishers' prices of textbooks have gone up. This means that a student at Los Angeles Valley College had to pay anywhere from 50 cents to $2 more on each textbook this term.

"Hard sciences, such as physics, chemistry, computer science, and books on nursing have especially gone up," said Claudette Burns, bookstore manager. "These books have always been higher to begin with," she said. According to Burns, many students had to pay more for books this year also because some instructors have ordered more textbooks that include computer software.

To counteract the higher prices in textbooks, Burns goes out to five major used book dealers. "The price of used books are usually 50 percent of the cost of the new books or the list price," Burns said. She buys the books based on orders from the faculty and marks them up so that the bookstore generally makes a 20 percent gross profit.

Burns said that because the cost of textbooks are so high, many students will go to the student store before the term and start pricing books. If a student finds that a certain course requires a book that is cheaper than another class, this pupil will enroll in a class that has the cheaper book.

Also if students know in advance that a textbook is not needed until mid-terms, they will buy the books they need right away and purchase the other books later. This way, they don't have to use up all their pay check at one time.

Some students don't mind the hike in prices. Nedra Chambers, who is a first term LAVC student said it doesn't bother her because she gets a voucher for books which is a grant that allows students $100 to pay for their books.

Karen Pavadyan from Moscow, Russia has just been in this country for a year and a half. He also has a $100 grant. "I have $10 left to spend," he said. "I'm looking around to see what else I can get here for this amount."

Another attitude is that of Mark Laine, second term business major. He was walking down the aisles, poking at his calculator. "The cost of books is too much," he said. "I have a budget and I have to see which price range to set up. I'll have to take the books that are most important like math, English, and stuff that is basic fundamentals." With a smile he remarked that some instructors don't use books, "so I can get by without it."

He then went on to say he noticed that the teachers who wrote the text, require it for class. "Hopefully I can pay society back for the price it cost to go to school," he said in an encouraging tone.

The bookstore does offer some advantages. "Students can get a full refund on books if returned up until the third week of school," said Burns. Books can be sold back to the store at the end of the semester at half the purchase price.

Burns said that about 20 percent of the students return books at the end of the term. If used books cannot be sold, they are sent back to the dealer.

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EDITORIALS

Operation Task Force

Like an anorexic teenager, the Budget Task Force, comprised of members of the Los Angeles Valley College Council, is trying to rid itself of "excess fat" that isn't there.

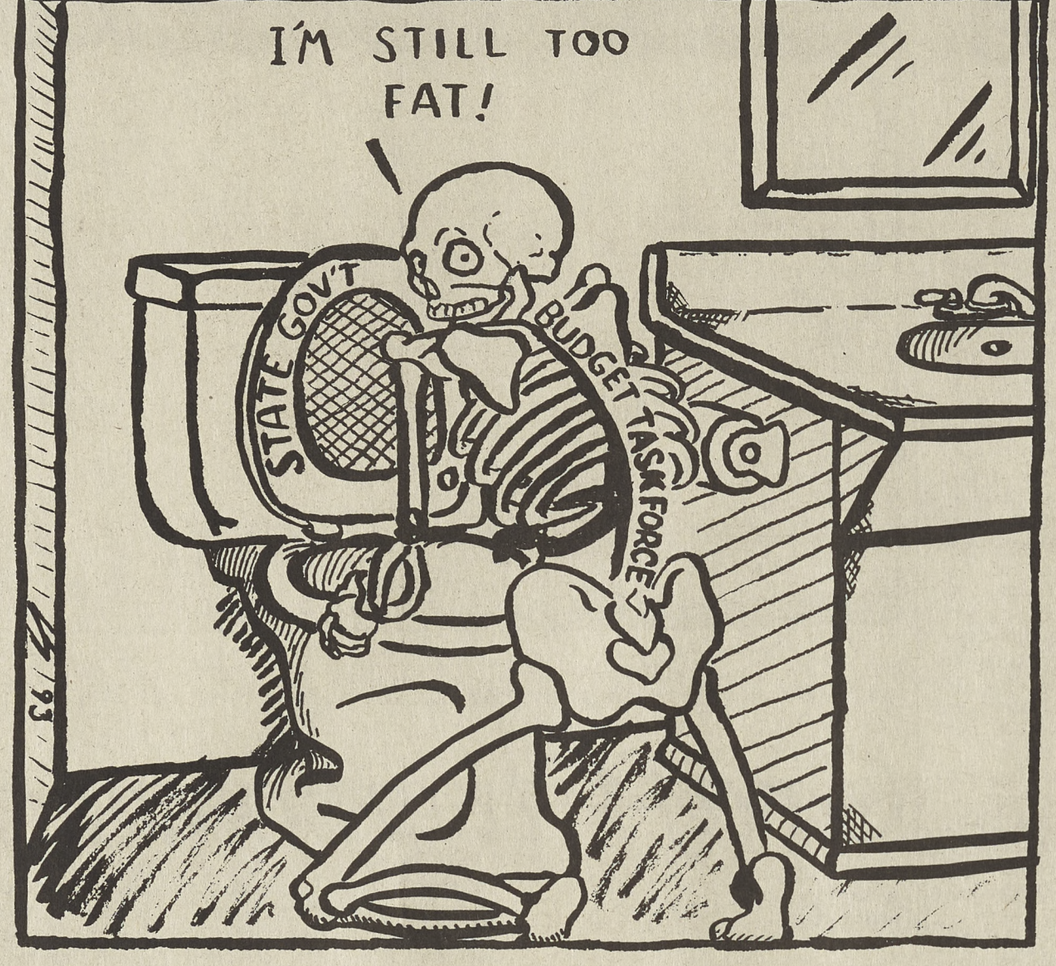
Painstakingly, it searches through every department looking for cuts in necessary expenditures. The task force continues to keep the students' needs in the forefront of their minds.

Although classes will have to be cut from the summer, fall and spring schedules, the task force attempts to retain the quality in the classes remaining and in services rendered within the college. Task force members agree that cutting funds for supplies would reduce the quality of education.

The altering of instruction staff positions from salaried to part-time hourlies may not, as some have implied, reduce the quality of instruction. (Sometimes a transfusion of new blood is good). Although this will limit formal conference hours for students within a department, in the experience of the editorial staff many part-time instructors are more willing to meet with students, when requested, than some full-time professors.

Although these instructors may not be knowledgeable in fields such as transfer, graduation and departmental requirements, the counseling staff is available for students with these questions.

The faculty, administration, staff and students have carefully considered the $1.3 million to be cut from LAVC's budget. The blame for depletion of classes can only be placed on the state of California's broken economy.



Thou shall not curse

The Associated Students Union held a rally Feb. 23, in Monarch Square. We at the *Valley Star* supported the rally and its purpose: to protest Governor Wilson's budget proposals and its massive cuts in education funding.

But despite our support of the cause, we take offense at the way a majority of the speakers exercised their freedom of speech. Almost every one of them, including ASU officers, made profanity such a central part of their presentations that it was difficult to hear their message. Their angry, vulgar outbursts were reduced to statements of little conceptual meaning.

The crowd dwindled when the parade of speakers actually seemed to annoy people who might have profited from articulate statements. Instead, they looked over club information and purchased food at the club tables. (It was also Club Day).

ASU leaders are elected officials. They hold offices that carry a mantle of respect. If they want to be effective in winning the battle against Sacramento's bureaucrats and the educational budget massacre, they must rise above the lowest common denominator and represent student views in language that carries more persuasiveness than it does shock value.

Editor's note

ASU President Jesse Hernandez and ASU Public Relations Officer Don Graham, Jr. have since apologized to faculty and administration members for the use of profanity during the rally.

ASU budget, a wound that keeps festering

By SHARYN CADIA
Staff Writer

The Associated Student Union for this 1992-1993 year is $90,752.73. That sounds like quite a bit of money, right? I thought so too. That is until I saw the ASU budget for 1967-68. The budget for that school year was $328,200.

According to the Office of Student Affairs, enrollment per semester of 1967-68 was about 16,000 students compared to current enrollment which is approximately 19,000 students.

In terms of services to students, the average in 1967-68 was over $20 per student, while current average is about $4.75. This year $4,800 will be spent by the ASU on cultural activities for various clubs, entertainment, the jazz orchestra, band and choir.

In 1967-68, $46,185 was available for similar cultural activities, as well as theater arts and motion picture productions, madrigal singers, film festivals, and free entertainment for students. About $61,182 was given to athletics that year. This year the total will be $5,800.

In the 1960s, ASU provided $2,850 more for the art gallery, $11,600 more for the evening division gave $9,000 in scholarships, and published a student handbook.

The next logical question is: why was there so much more money available in the ASU budget in 1968?

According to Don Graham Jr., ASU Commissioner of Public Relations, the students bookstore and parking lot profits went to ASU then. The bookstore generated the biggest revenue. Students could regulate the prices and had more "say". "Students' money built the Campus Center, the swimming pool and the fences to make the school safer," Graham said.

Control of the bookstore was turned over to the Community College District sometime in late '60s or early '70s, Claudette Burns, manager of the Los Angeles Valley College bookstore said.

"The profit goes to the bookstore fund, which is district controlled. They draw from it and the district pays the bills," she stated.

It all boils down to money. ASU is an important and vital part of this campus. It is a reflection of what has happened to higher education in California.

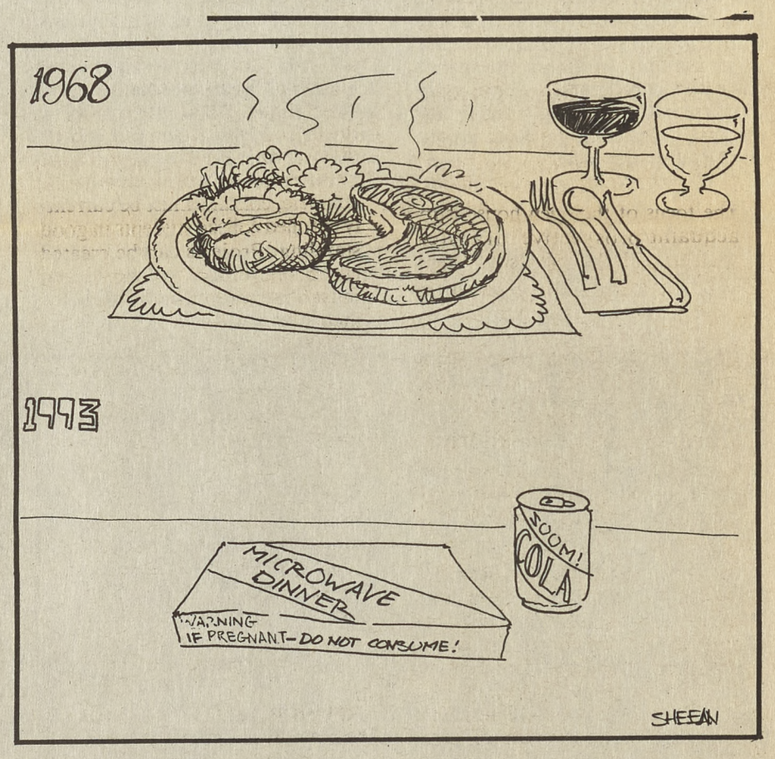
According to Math Department Chairman, Philip Clarke, who was a member the original staff of LAVC, money was no problem until the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978. Until then, education was supported by local property taxation. After that it became state-supported.

In Clarke's opinion, the only answer is to raise state income tax rates because there is no other source of money.

Dr. Shannon Stack, history professor, has been a fulltime instructor at LAVC since 1971. She said she has watched the college faculty decrease." Fine courses that used to be offered every semester are offered once a year or every third semester."

"It's never been able to level off since Prop. 13. We're 80 percent dependent on the state of California," She suggests to reform the tax system and expenditures. "A major overhaul is needed. There is no quick fix."

There is a crisis in education in California. The size of the ASU budget is just a small sore in the larger festering wound of slashes and cuts. Students can no longer sit back and wait until everything gets better because it never will.



Letters to the Editor

Student calls for 24-hour walkout to protest cuts

Dear Editor:

I attended the ASU rally in protest of Governor Wilson's budget cuts for the '93-'94 school year and while listening to each of the speakers, I realized I felt more like a child than I did a student.

I thought the aim of the rally was to encourage unification among the student body, but I found myself walking away with and even greater sense of isolation and hopelessness about the situation.

To sum everything up, I did not enjoy being chastised by members of ASU (along with each one of the open-mike speakers) and I did not find everyone's personal soapboxes amusing or useful to the cause.

Unlike the children of the '60s, students today know that sit-ins and marches, flower and fashion are not going to stop our government from imposing unfair rules and regulations upon the economically disadvantaged.

Letters, school demonstrations, postcards and telephone calls do not get through to our state politicians. The only way to make our voice heard is to take action. To demonstrate the intensity of our convictions, I propose that every state funded school, from the UC's to kindergarten, go on a 24 hour walk-out.

Each student teacher, parent, faculty and staff member is in the same predicament. We must unite and boycott our current system of education until we see signs of improvement.

The old ways of making ourselves heard are useless. Simply asking for the money to maintain our schools will get us nowhere. We are apathetic because we have no voice and no hope for change, not because we don't care.

I would support a walk-out and risk being arrested and even expelled if it would make a difference. And I am positive that others across the state are tired of feeling that there is little or nothing they can do to save their education and the education of their children and are now ready to take a risk to try and improve it.

There are so many of us feeling repercussions of this unfair political system that by getting together, without throwing blame and isolating one another, we can make a difference.

Christina M. Ramos
English Major

Teachers can help

Dear Editor:

In response to Ronit Le Mon's article in the Feb. 25 issue of the *Valley Star* "Budget rally sparks controversy," Le Mon details the day's events rather well, but excludes one of the main speakers who raised some interesting questions.

Farrel Broslwasky, professor of political science and philosophy, asked teachers to get more involved and introduce this "budget issue" inside their classrooms.

If Broslawsky's plan to unify the teachers and students works, this school will be a major contributor to the fight up in Sacramento. Broslawsky's view is finally a new approach that should be taken to get teachers and students more involved in this academic injustice.

Jose Luis Hernandez
Political Science Major

Praise to the *Star*

Dear Editor:

Fortunately, in these difficult and trying financial times, there are still many positive efforts by the faculty, staff and students at Valley College.

On behalf of the Men's and Women's Athletic Departments at Valley, I would like to commend the outstanding efforts of this semester's staff at the *Valley Star*.

I have been fortunate to work on a daily basis with the *Valley Star* staff. Their efforts and professionalism are truly to be commended.

Although facing their ever present deadlines, the attention to detail has been particularly impressive.

In my thirteen years tenure at Valley College, I do not recall ever having dealt with such organized staff representing the *Valley Star*.

As with all successful organizations, the success begins with the leaders. To Natalie Holtzman and Nancy Vigran, your excellent efforts are certainly not going unnoticed.

Chuck Ferrero
Athletic Director

Valley Star

CNPA JACC

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★★★★★ LETTERS ★★★★★ LETTERS ★★★★★

The **Valley Star** is nappy to receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers.

The **Star** reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 350 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist, or sexually oriented denigrations.

Letters should be signed and include student's major and ID number. Letters may be presented to the **Valley Star** office, Bungalow 25, by Monday **morning** for the following Thursday.

Over-due books are burden for school library, students

By MARION JIMENEZ
Staff Writer

Last year, 263,000 people visited the Los Angeles Valley College library and checked out 55,600 books and magazines.

The library's budget for the '92-'93 academic year is $47,200 for books and periodicals. This figure has stayed about the same for the past few years, said Head Librarian David May. "It hasn't increased at all, although costs keep going up," added May.

The library has 250 books that have been overdue for two or more years, down from 1000 just a few years ago. About 80 percent were checked out by students, according to May.

The library puts a hold on the student's record when a book is overdue more than three weeks. This means he or she cannot register, add or drop classes or get transcripts in the entire district.

During the '91-'92 year, 768 holds were put on students with outstanding books. By the end of the year, May said the library made 1,065 clearances. This means that a good number of students from previous years also cleared their records.

May said most students will return books or pay for those lost because they need their transcripts to transfer to a four-year university.

"Some people don't even remember having checked out books."
David May

There are also returning students. "They may at some time want to come back," said May, "and then have to pay for those books."

When a book is lost, the student (or faculty member) must cover the current replacement fee plus a $5 processing fee, which pays for the extra work of recataloging and processing the book.

Last year, the average price of a book was $43. May said individual books are priced from $5 for paperbacks to $300 for reference books.

According to May, college staff and faculty with overdue books are sent reminders and many do return them. Retired persons are also contacted by the library.

"Some people don't even remember having checked out books," said May.

But there are no consequences for college employees with outstanding books. May said the district will not go for anything like taking the cost from paychecks.

Fortunately, lost books have no effect on extras for students. The library's new weekend hours are funded entirely by the ASU, said May.

Don Graham, ASU commissioner of public relations, said $6,040 will pay one librarian and two student workers every Saturday from 11 to 3 p.m., and two 12 hour weekends before and during finals. $750 will go to college catalogs.

The college used to fund weekend hours until Proposition 13 was voted into effect, said May. After 1980, budget cuts caused a weekend hours dry spell of about five years.

The ASU has volunteered funds to open the library on weekends since 1985.

Non-resident fee increase fails to hamper enrollment at LAVC

By JOSE I. LEMUS
Staff Writer

The fee increase of $11 per unit for non-resident students has not had significant effects on enrollment at Los Angeles Valley College this Spring, said Foreign Students Adviser Ramiro Rosillo.

Rosillo said enrollment has continued to be steady because most foreign students are economically able to afford the raise. "They can pay the fee because they have money," Rosillo said, "and the raise is insignificant."

With the hike instituted as of Fall '92, the fee is now $123 per unit. In addition, non-resident students pay the resident fee of $10 per unit, with a minimum of 12 units for a semester or $120. The total in fees per semester, including the obligatory health fee of $7.50, is $1,603.50.

Figures provided by Associated Dean of Admissions Billy Reed show a fluctuation in enrollment of about 15 students each semester. More than 400 non-resident students enroll each semester at LAVC.

Some students said they dislike the raise but have no way of opposing it. "It is almost two months worth of groceries," said Mohammad Naveed, a student from Pakistan attending his third semester at Valley. But he said he has managed to adjust his budget to the raise. "If it were $500 or $700, then it would be too much," Naveed said.

Lai Hoi, a student from the Portuguese colony of Macao said the raise is small. "It is not a big deal, but I just don't want any more raises because it is out of my budget," she said.

Jean Chen, a student from Taiwan said she had prepared for the raise. However the college, "should do something else instead of raising tuition," she said. "I didn't like it because it is unfair. However there is nothing we can do."

Former LAVC student Elahe Rabani from Iran said, "you don't have any option, you don't have the right to talk about tuition."

"If you can't pay the fee, you have the option to go back to your country because you are not an American citizen," she said.

As part of the prerequisites for first time enrollment to any college in the United States, foreign students must fill out a form containing information about their financial capacity to pay school, and that form must be verify by a bank in the United States.

Non-resident students are divided in two categories: United States citizens who are non-California residents and foreign students. Both groups pay the same fee to attend community colleges in California. After one year living in California, the U.S. citizens qualify for the residency fee of $10 a unit.

NEWS BRIEFS

Hillel: Hillel, ASU and the psychology department will present a lecture entitled, "Avoiding the cult trap: A Jewish perspective from a former cult member.' It will be held on Thursday March 11 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. in Behavioral Sciences 100.

CSUN Open House: Cal State University Northridge will be holding an open house on Friday March 26 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the University Student Union. The focus of the open house is to acquaint prospective transfer students with the university. There will be department representatives present, a seminar on transfering, workshops on financial aid, fraternity and sorority representatives and tours of the CSUN housing. For information call 855-2967

Campus Concert Series: Keith Calmes, guitarist will be performing in the Music Recital Hall in M 106 Today at 11 a.m.

Student Workshops: Ramiro Rosillo, a counselor from the counseling department, will be presenting workshops on campus. They will be held on Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon in Bungalow 14. The dates and topics for the workshops are: "Time Management," March 6, "Communication Skills," March 13, "Career Awareness," and March 20, "How to Study." All students are welcome and the classes are free.

Lawn Spraying: On Thursday and Friday, March 4 and 5, the gardners at LAVC are spraying the lawns. Spraying will begin at 6 a.m. and end at 11 a.m. on both days.

Video Contest: The Christophers, a Christian organization, invites all students to enter their video contest. The theme is, "One person can make a difference." Entries must be five minutes or under in length. To compete, entrants must be currently enrolled college students in good standing. Projects can be created either on film or videotape but must be submitted on VHS or 3/4 inch cassette only. First prize is $3,000, Second is $2,000, Third is $1,000 and the five honorable mention awards are $500 each. Entries are due by June 11. For more information and an entry form call (212) 759-4050.

Science Lectures: The Earth Science Department is holding a spring lecture series in celebration of its 39th semester. The series runs on Tuesdays on Mar. 9, Mar. 23, Apr. 13, Apr. 20, and May 11. They will be held at noon in the Math Science building in 113.

Art Show: The LAVC Gallery is hosting an art show featuring the work of David Starrett. The show will run until Mar. 4. Gallery hours are Monday thru Thursday 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. For information call (818) 781-1200 ext. 400.

YWCA: The YWCA, North Valley Center, is seeking volunteers to cheer, scream and have fun at the LA Marathon on Sunday March 7. All volunteers will receive a free t-shirt at the marathon. There will be a block party with food and music. All are welcome and transportation is provided for all who register. To volunteer call 365-9141.

Catholic Big Brothers: Catholic Big Brothers is seeking men in all areas of Los Angeles County to become role models for fatherless youths. Nearly 170 children who range in age from 7 to 14 have submitted requests. Many of them will have to wait up to three years for their big brother. Your friendship would mean a lot. To volunteer or for information call (213(251-9800.

Counseling Department: The New Horizons Center at LAVC is offering counseling and workshops for single parents and returning homemakers. The areas covered include career planning, job search skills, self-esteem, decision making and goal setting. The counseling will be provided in the following areas: career, academic, personal, support groups and career testing. The center is located in Bungalow 14 and is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. All other hours are by appointment only. For further information contact Barbara Goldberg at ext. 332.

Buffet offers variety of foods

By DEREK ANEY
Staff Writer

How much food can a student at Los Angeles Valley College eat for $3.99?

An easy way to find out is with the new all you can eat buffet located in the LAVC cafeteria. The service is open Tuesday through Thursday from 10:30am to 3:30pm, and offers about 50 different foods to choose from.

"I just thought this was something that we needed on campus, a lot of people are trying to save and I was trying to do something where we could have a variety of foods available," Fierro said.

While the buffet was originally intended to be a salad bar, the hot foods are quite popular, Fierro said.

The buffet opened on Feb.16 and had a relatively small turnout, but it is now serving as many as 70 people a day. A breakfast buffet is a possibility for the future if the lunch service does well, Fierro said.

Cold foods served at the buffet include a variety of vegetables, as well as a salad bar. Rice, meat ravioli, egg noodles, and chicken chop suey are just a few of the hot entrees available.

All of the food is prepared by Albert Fierro, who came up with the idea for the buffet.

"Everybody is happy with the food", said Nydia Gasperi who was on her lunch break from her cashiering job at the buffet. While it was her first day working there, Gasperi complimented the food and said that her customers seemed to be satisfied with the service.

ADAM CROCKER / Valley Star

The Buffet Court sports carnations and paper doilies on the tables in addition to plentiful food. The Buffet Court is new to LAVC.

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One-man show caps Black History Month

By ROBERT MAIZE
Entertainment Editor

He is a young boy playing with a dead frog and trying to decide which of his mother's boyfriends he would prefer for a father; a former gang-banger three days before his execution; a yuppie with a Rolex watch and a Brooks Brother's suit who loves ballet and hates black.

He is Randy Saint Martin doing his one-man performance of "Color Me Black," which was presented by the Los Angeles Valley College Black Student Union last Thursday in Monarch Hall as the final event of Black History Month.

The show consists of six vignettes, mostly written by Saint Martin, on a stage with only a lecturn, a folding chair and a coat rack for his costume changes. His performance is so intense and believable and his message so vital, that the lack of theatrical trimmings is not really noticeable.

"Color Me Black" grew out of research Saint Martin was doing for his doctorate in theatre arts at California State College, Sacramento. He decided to take the reports and raw statistics he was studying, combine them with his own observations and turn it into a theatre piece.

"This show is about what it's like to be Black in America," Saint Martin said in a phone interview. "It's about sharing and telling the truth. There are so many shades to the rainbow. These people I create are not stereotypes, but rather archetypes that reflect life in contemporary America."

Although there are many comic moments, serious issues are explored, beginning with a speech given by Frederic Douglass to a congregation of abolitionists in 1837. Donning beard and long coat, Saint Martin's deep-voiced Douglass tells the tragedy of a slave family being sold apart by its ruthless owners.

"This show is about what it's like to be Black in America."

—Randy Saint Martin

The "San Pablo Pimp" sketch is about a man who once had "a class stable of fillies" working for him and who bought a new car every year with cash. Now he is a homeless wino whose only friend is a dog and who gets himself arrested so he will have a place to sleep and a meal.

The dilemma of the "Little Man" character (of not having a father and dealing with his mother's boyfriends) is one faced by children of all colors, Saint Martin pointed out during the interview. "There is a big absence of male role models for kids today, it's one of the big problems. Seventy-eight percent of Black households are headed by women. The women are holding it together."

Little Man, dressed in an oversized tee-shirt and backwards baseball cap, discusses his mother's suitors.

"I call this one Milkman, 'cause when he comes over he always send me to the store for milk," he says. "When I come back, Mama's in her bathrobe and Milkman is laying on the couch smiling."

At the end of the piece, Little Man turns to the audience and sadly asks,"You got a Daddy?"

The problems of a fatherless son is also the theme of "Bangin' in the Wild West," in which a former gang member grants a press conference to a group of white reporters shortly before he is to be executed.

"Hey man, we're talkin' Uzzis, AK attack rifles...there's violence in the jungle," he says. He talks about the wasted talent of the members of his gang: one could have been a great comedian, another was a whiz at math, but "he was shot 12 times while he was sitting in his car. The police jump at a chance to shoot a Black."

Then the condemned man's father unexpectedly arrives and he delivers an impassioned, angry attack on the man who abandoned him.

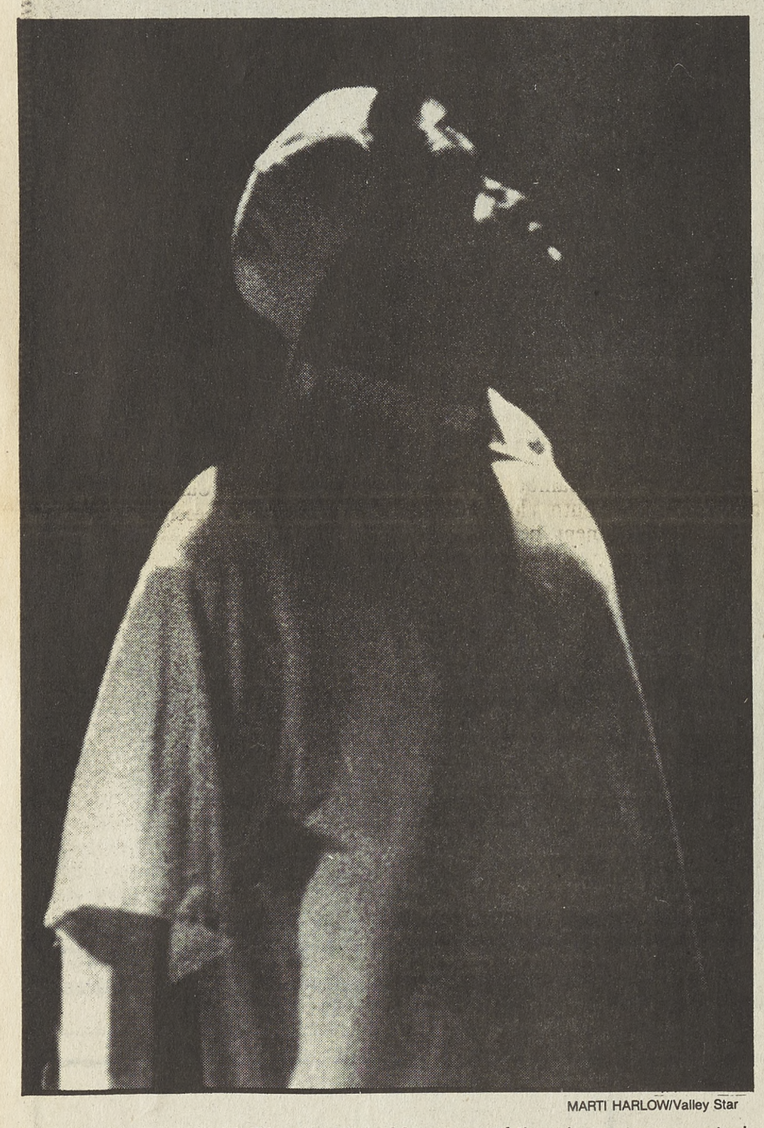
"If you plant a tree, you don't have to watch it grow, it'll grow by itself," he shouts, on the verge of tears. "But you could come by and water it every once in a while."

In "Mr. Negro," Saint Martin examines the phenomenon of the upwardly mobile young executive who has rejected Black culture and attempts to take on the trappings of Yuppiedom. He drives a "beemer," hates "Ebony" magazine, and can't understand why Hattie McDaniel (Scarlett O'Hara's Black nanny in "Gone With the Wind") received an Oscar for her performance instead of Vivian Leigh (Scarlett herself).

This "corporate Uncle Tom"is a rather ridiculous creature, neither Black nor white, who walks around singing "to dream the impossible dream..." a la Sammy Davis, Jr.

Saint Martin has been developing and performing "Color Me Black" for 14 years all over California, including USC, UCLA and the L.A. Theatre Center. He says his characters and sketches keep changing to "reflect the political, social, and cultural changes I see in society."

He plans to do "Color Me Black" at the Odyssey Theatre in Westwood some time in the late spring of this year.



MARTI HARLOW/Valley Star

"Do you have a daddy?" asks Little Man, one of the characters created by Randy Saint Martin in his performance of "Color Me Black."

MARTI HARLOW / Valley Star

Professor Joseph Daccurso is tied up and gassed by his students during a film class. Actually, he is volunteering to demonstrate how a smoke machine can add atmosphere to a dramatic scene.

Film class plays it up with special effects

By J.D. WOLVERTON
Staff Writer

Professional film production is a vocation requiring an intense commitment of energy and dedication if the aspiring filmmaker hopes to succeed.

LAVC students who are enrolled this semester in Theatre Arts 517, Advanced Cinematography and Creative Techniques, are getting a slam dunk immersion into what awaits them in the industry.

Joseph A. Daccurso, professor and chairman in the department of Theatre and Cinema Arts, is teaching T.A. 517 this spring. In a recent interview, Daccurso said that the course is structured so that the subject matter covered is broken down into three blocks over the term.

"The students deal with advanced lighting techniques, techniques for both studio and location shooting, and for both realistic and expressionistic styles," Daccurso said.

"In the middle of the semester, they will get into a variety of special effects techniques that emphasize getting credible illusionary effects with low-budget, low-tech equipment and facilities," Daccurso said. "The key is to make something look like it's big-time, but done on a storefront budget."

The semester's third component emphasizes animation techniques, from the traditional cel and line animation techniques to 3-D pixilation, kinestasis and drawing directly on film, Daccurso said."Probably for every hour in the classroom, they will spend four hours outside in preparation; it's a lab class of four hours," he added.

About eight students enrolled in T.A. 517 participated in the film noir lighting exercise on a recent Monday night. During a break in the session they all agreed that the cinema program at LAVC was rigorous in its demands but believed this was necessary in order to adequately prepare them for what lies ahead when they start looking for employment.

"You have to be prepared, have your storyboards done, and a revised script before you can shoot, in order to make a film at the least inconvenience and cost," according to Pavel Cantu. "It's so easy to screw up in the labs...all your work can be down in the trash because you didn't use the right filter."

"During the week, you're putting in at least eight to ten hours for this class (on top of scheduled class hours)," said Nigel Lizaranzu.

"You can't have a steady nine-to-five job like everybody else," said Cantu. "Just to go the the labs and get equipment...what kind of job would let you take two hours off during the day to do that?," he said. "You don't take this course to have fun."

"You have to kiss your weekends goodbye," Lizaranzu said.

Film students also learn early of the high costs involved in pursuing their craft.

"Even on our advanced projects, it will cost a minimum of $500 in lab fees to process a 60-second film," said Lizaranzu.

"We're putting so much work into this class because it's something that you can show when you get out of here," said Cantu.

"If our stuff comes out decent, we can show it as an example of what we've done," Phil Reynolds said. "They provide a good foundation... and you can pretty much walk out of here and get any entry level job. It's up to you after that."

Most of the students enrolled in T.A. 517 are cinema majors who will either go on to earn bachelor's degrees in film and television at four-year colleges or universities, or will be going directly into the film and TV industries to work, Daccurso said.

"The class is set up so different exercises will give them a range of experience that will incorporate using all of the department's equipment at some time or another —a range of experience that will take them from large to small individual projects," he said.

In addition to learning how to use the hardware and equipment, Daccurso's students must also do production paperwork, including plots and lighting plots, camera logs, and camera crew budgets.

The students also study the aesthetic styles of American and foreign cameramen who worked from the silent era to the present. "In all our film classes, we encourage going out to the various movie art house, museum and revival screenings to increase their video literacy. Occasionally we bring in guest speakers from the industry," he said.

These budding filmmakers seem to take all the obstacles they encounter in stride. They all have an ambitious gleam in their eyes and display the confidence they will need in order to survive in their demanding profession.

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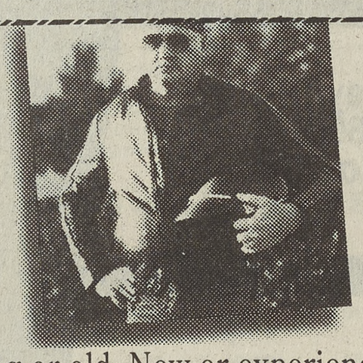
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Trails of the Valley

★ **1,500,000 B.C.:** The entire Valley is under water (not unlike how it has been lately.)

★ **500 B.C.:** The first human beings take up residence here, living in small scattered villages.

★ **1769 A.D.:** Gaspar Portola becomes the first European to set foot here, which is called "Valley of the Live Oak" by the locals.

★ **1771:** The Valley is home to more than 40,000 sheep and cattle.

★ **1888:** The sheep and cattle are gone and the Valley is a huge wheat field, with a bumper crop of 510,000 bushels.

★ **1911:** Van Nuys Township is officially opened, named after developer Issac Newton Van Nuys.

★ **1912:** Earl Mulholland brings water to the Valley. Curiously, he finishes the project on time and within budget.

★ **1925:** One-quarter of an acre of land sells for $895 or $10 per month and each lot comes with 15-20 fruit trees or 50-100 grape vines.

★ **1949:** Los Angeles Valley College is founded with a staff of 21 and an enrollment of 440.

★ **1951:** The college moves to its present site which had formerly been a dairy.

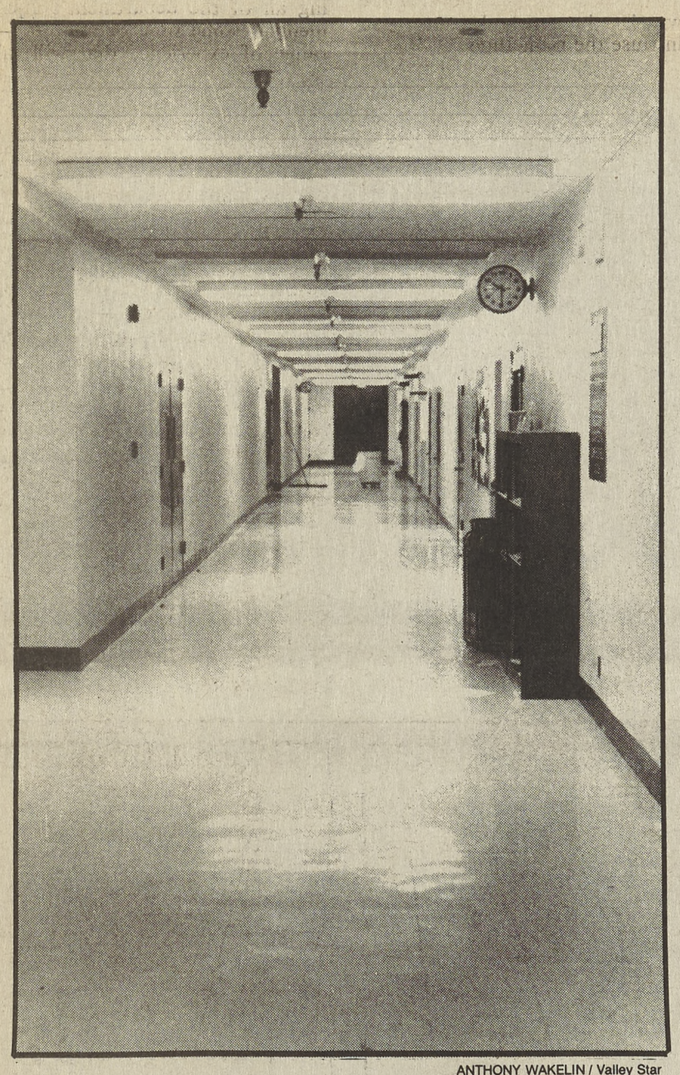
Museum welcomes visitors

Like stepping into another world, the Los Angeles Valley College Historical Museum displays pictures of the Valley when it was called the "land of peaches and apricots."

The only industry was an organ factory and North Hollywood was a wheat field. It was a world of milkmen, ice-boxes, wing-tip collars, parasols, silk fans and horse anchors.

The museum, located in Bungalow 15 on the south end of the campus, displays many relics from the Valley's vanished age.

Museum hours are 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.



ANTHONY WAKELIN / Valley Star

What happened to Friday's "Picture Perfect" fund-raising concert? ASU officials feared funds would be lost, not raised, and the event was cancelled on short notice.

DAVID L. HILDEBRAND / Valley Star

Austin Conover, Los Angeles Valley Collge Historical Museum curator, shows the remains of a ship's anchor which was found by a Valley College student while scuba diving. The anchor is believed to be part of a Chinese sailing vessel (Junk), and pre-dates Christopher Columbus.

LAVC has its living legend

By ROBERT MAIZE
Staff Writer

Host and overseer of the Los Angeles Valley College Historical Museum, Austin Conover, has lived world history for the past 50 years.

"Glad to have you. Shake your paw?" he asks as he greets a museum visitor. He has kindly blue eyes that twinkle with enthusiasm and he moves nimbly and energetically as he guides the visitor through the four rooms of the bungalow museum.

He points to a picture of the Valley in 1926 which shows open fields, dirt roads lined with trees and the hazy hills in the background.

"Weren't you born too late?" he asks. "No smog, no traffic, no fender-benders to worry about."

A journalist for 31 years Conover had the opportunity to interview and become friends with some influential world leaders of the 20th century and to be an eye-witness to pivotal moments in history.

He relishes his latest role as curator and guide for the museum. He also marvels at the fact that many of these items are no longer in use and that there have been so many changes during his lifetime.

One room is filled with farm implements: pitch fork, egg basket, branding iron, corn planter, and a horse anchor.

"If you didn't have a hitching post, you tied your horse to the anchor," he explains. The anchor looks something like a wheel rim with a chain attached to it.

He delights in asking the visitor to try to identify an art object and if the answer is correct he emphatically says, "That's exactly it!"

"This was the first factory in the Valley," he says, pointing to a photograph of a group of people standing in front of the Morgan Organ Company. "They made organs for silent movie houses, to play the galloping horses and all those things. They chose this factory because it didn't cause air pollution. Now isn't that something?"

Witn the new technology of "talking movies" came, the factory went out of business and everyone lost their job. "It was worse than when Lockheed closed, because it was the only industry here," he says.

Conover was born in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1913. He arrived in Southern California in 1931, during the depths of the Great Depression, which he describes as "a scalding thing."

"I enrolled at USC when tuition was only $34 a year," he says. He got a job as a football assistant manager and was part of the team that ended Knute Rockne's winning streak when the Trojans beat Notre Dame.

After graduating from USC, Austin became a reporter for the Hollywood Citizen and his beat was Hollywood and the movies. "Can you imagine, I joined the newspaper at the height of Hollywood's Golden Years," he says. "Have you ever heard of 'Gone With the Wind' or 'Wizard of Oz?' "

"I covered Hollywood, but after the war immediately came the cold war and Hollywood went down. The nightmare years of Joe McCarthy and the House Un-American Activities Committee began," he says.

Covering the Hollywood Communists was how he got tipped off to a planned revolution in Central America. "It was the first CIA adventure. Later they went to Cuba and Bay of Pigs. Guatemala was the first revolution I covered and it was financed by the Hollywood Reds," he says.

Conover now had his own colum. "Roaming Around," which sent him roaming around the globe, including five trips across Siberia and to the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Over the years, he interviewed John Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan.

As a foreign correspondant, he met many world leaders, including Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Josef Stalin, and Willie Brandt.

Conover was in Indochina in 1954 during the Geneva Conference which was in the process of dividing the country into Cambodia, Laos, and North and South Vietnam.

"Our government believed that France deserved its colonial possessions," he says. "That was really the first tag that we were involved in Vietnam. And extremely interesting to me is that the French Foreign Legion was at one time the top military outfit."

"But my, that was a defeat (Battle of Dien Ben Phu, 1954.) They underestimated, as we did, the tremendous urge for national independence by these people." He recalls flying over Dien Ben Phu after the battle and seeing the white puffs of fallen French parachutists littering the countryside.

"I call this the 'College of Miracles.' "

—Austin Conover

Conover was in Berlin to interview Mayor Willie Brandt when the Communists were building the Berlin Wall.

"We all thought that wall would last forever," he says. "But Willie Brandt said, 'No, that's going to come down very soon and Communism will fade.' And he was right, you bet!"

After his newspaper folded in 1970, Conover taught journalism and writing at several area schools, the spent 12 years as public information officer at LAVC.

"I call this the 'College of Miracles,'" he says. "There are so many things that happen here that are wonderful. I have so many stories."

One story is of a single mother with a crippled child. She had difficulty with public speaking and was ready to give up trying to get an education. Then she was persuaded to seek counseling and wound up giving the commencement speech at graduation.

"She'd gone through such a change I couldn't recognize her," Conover says. "She blossomed tremendously and went on to CSUN and became a teacher. Her little child had braces and couldn't walk very well, and when she spoke at the commencement about the help she received here, oh my, there wasn't a dry eye in that whole room. But that's what I mean, this is a college of miracles."

After he retired from LAVC, Conover spent three years working with juvenile offenders in Sylmar. As a reporter he had always been active with service and self-help groups, including Alcoholics Anonymous and the Braille Institute.

Next month he will be honored as "Man of the Year" by the East Valley Coordinating Committee, a group of community leaders who organize activities with various service clubs in the Valley.

"Don't you just love journalism?" he asks suddenly. "Journalism gives you such latitude, such a wide range of things. You're right at the crux of things. Nothing in the world can quite beat journalism."

"Think of the career of William Shirer (author of 'The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich')" he says. "He went from India covering Gandhi, who was the first non-violent demonstrator, to Germany to report on Adolph Hitler. He covered this century's greatest saint and its greatest satan.

That's what you get when you're a journalist. Can you imagine a more interesting life?"

When imagining the life of Austin Conover, the answer is a definite "No!"

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Sports Calendar

Baseball

3/4	Pierce	Home	2 p.m.
3/9	Cuesta	Away	2 p.m.

Swimming

3/5	Pierce	Home	2 p.m.
3/12	Cuesta	Away	2 p.m.

Diving

3/11	Mt. Sac. Invitational	Away	Noon
3/4	Pierce	Here	2 p.m.

Track and Field

3/5	Ventura	Away	2 p.m.
3/12	Bakersfield	Away	2 p.m.

Run, but you can't hide

The Monarchs out-ran, out-hurdled, out-jumped and out-shotput their opponents to win 16 track and field events last Friday in Santa Barbara.

In a meet opposing Santa Barbara, Glendale and West Los Angeles, the LAVC relay team (Kyle Beck, Ruben Benitez, Reginald Welch, Jr. and Kevin Maxie) won the 4x100 meters in 42.0 seconds.

Beck also won the 110m hurdles (14.8), 400m intermediates (55.9) and the long jump (22' 8''). Benitez won the 400m (48.4) and 200m (21.9). Jon Forss won shotput with a 39' 1½'' throw.

The women's team came in second overall behind Glendale. Monarchs Nicole Rucker, Charisse Phillips, LaTara Hudson and Monique Baster also won the 4x100 in 49.9 seconds.

Rucker, Traycie Kusal and Jennifer Stewart were all dual winners. Baster the long jump (15'1'').

—Compiled by Nancy Vigran

BOB LaCATTIVA / Valley Star

A dejected Nicole Baynes could only sit and watch following her fifth foul during the final minutes of the Lady Monarchs season. Harbor set up a road block on the way to Ventura defeating Valley 97-78 on Saturday.

Monarchs starting to roll, digging in as the new season begins

By ANDREW SAMUELSON
Staff Writer

The Los Angeles Valley College baseball team went on the road to get their third conference victory in five tries by holding off Ventura, 6-3, on Tuesday capping off a week in which they had lost to Santa Barbara and tied Moorpark.

At Santa Barbara, the Monarchs committed six errors on the way to 12-4 trouncing on Friday.

While the defense and pitching remained stagnate, the offense rebounded on Saturday, as the Monarchs scored seven runs in the seventh inning to tie Moorpark 10-10 at home. Neither team scored in the final two innings and the game was called because of darkness.

Coach Chris Johnson said the game will remain tied unless at the end of the season it has significance with either team as far as making the state playoffs or winning the conference title.

On Tuesday, LAVC had only six hits, but were able to score six runs as they defeated Ventura. The pitching held up this time to win the game for the Monarchs.

"We were able to stabilize our defense and pitch better."
—Coach Chris Johnson

The score was 4-3 in the bottom of the eighth inning when Valley padded their lead with two runs on an RBI double by Arnold Settles and a passed ball. Willie Rivera came in the eighth inning and shut down Ventura to clinch the game for LAVC.

Coach Johnson was pleased with the way his team was able to generate runs by advancing runners, something he said they were not able to do against Santa Barbara and Moorpark.

"We were able to stabilize our defense and pitch better," Coach Johnson said. "You got to play pretty good on the road to win this conference. So I'm happy with the win."

Willie Rivera appeared in two of the team's three games as the closing relief pitcher. He did not allow any runs to preserve the tie against Moorpark and earned a save in the Ventura game, pitching two innings in each game.

With the team at 3-1-1 in the Western States Conference, they are among the top teams in a division that sent two teams to the State Finals last year and which Johnson said is recognized by many as one of top two in the state.

Los Angeles Pierce College, one of the teams that made it to the finals, will be playing here today in a game that Johnson said is always a struggle because it is such a big rivalry.

Swimmers win second dual meet

By LUCY THOMAS
Staff Writer

Bundled in blankets and heavy clothing spectators sat in the bleachers at the Los Angeles Valley College outdoor swimming pool last Friday to watch LAVC win its second dual swim meet in as many weeks.

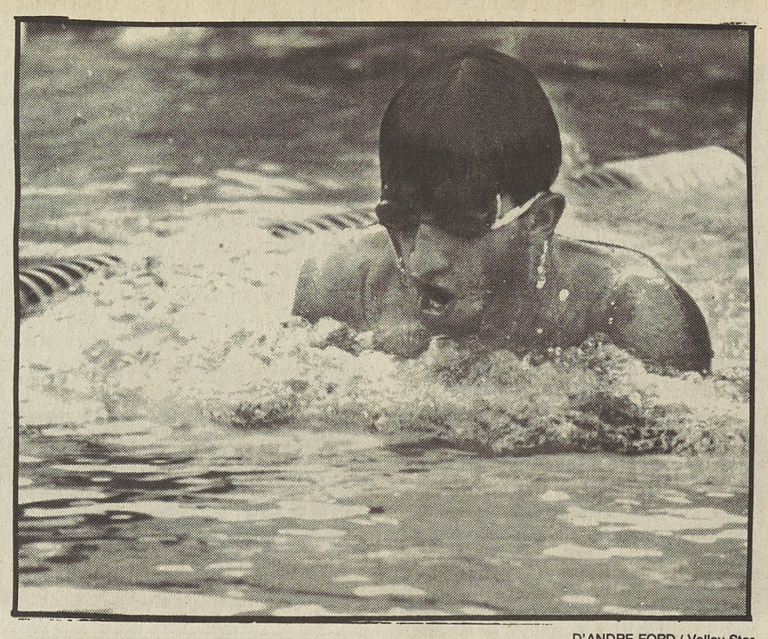
The LAVC men's team beat Ventura 62 to 51. Wonmeen Jun won two events, the 50 freestyle (23.1) and the 200 backstroke in (2:08.9).

Jun also led off the winning 400 medley relay (4:04.3) consisting of Jun, Edvin Megrabyan, Ryan Barry, and Steve Costales. Barry won the 200 freestyle (1:53.7), Robert Brown took the 100 freestyle in (51.7).

LAVC diver, Jesse Ellis, won the one meter diving event with a score of 136.7 and his teammate Bree Bartlett took third place with 113.5.points. In the three meter diving event, LAVC diver Scott Swinford took second place with 141.25 points and Wade Harlan also of LAVC was third with a score of 130.85.

LAVC Swim Coach Bill Krauss said, our team's depth really paid off as we took many second and third places and won both relays.

The LAVC women swimmers had their first win of the season against Ventura with a total of 69 to 44. LAVC women were in a winning mood, said Krauss and had some excellent times.



D'ANDRE FORD / Valley Star

Edvin Megrabyan swimming in the 400 meter relay. Valley was victorious with a time of 4:04.3.

Luzmilla Ocon had a great afternoon winning the 100 individual medley (IM) (1:11.6),the 200 IM (2:31.9) and the 500 freestyle (6:05.28) by a heartbeat in the last stroke of the race.

Another double winner was Lacy Weaver, taking the 50 freestyle in 28.1 and the 100 butterfly in 1:14.1. The 100 backstroke was won by Jennifer Cole in 1:14.4.

LAVC women also won the 200 medley relay. Cole, Tatum Langford, Weaver and Lisa Fletcher had a great time of 2:16.1 in the race.

In the women's diving competition, Julie Amerongen took second place for LAVC in the one meter diving with a score 138.85 and her teammate Feliz Barragan took third place with a total of 116.2. Amerongen took first place in the three meter diving with a score of 116.9.

Gary Honjio, LAVC diving coach said, our divers are improving rapidly and will be a tremendous asset in the Western States Conference Meet

LAVC's next swim meet is at home tomorrow against Pierce College.

Ladies are all played out

By DANA MEADOR
Staff Writer

A season full of triumphs and incredible highlights is over. The individual efforts and unique personalities must wait to show themselves another day. The Lady Monarchs have had a tremendous season, a season that has encompassed learning and athleticism.

Basketball, is only a game, but each team shares a common bond. Family, may describe a unit or a group, but for a team to be successful, they must look beyond their personal goals and share in whatever happens, good or bad.

The Lady Monarchs have been an effective unit on the basketball court. Making that extra pass, making that perfect screen, making that tough shot has added to a season of unheralded success.

After coming off a 80-53 victory against a determined Santa Barbara team, the Lady Monarchs fell victim to a tough Harbor team.

Harbor guard Bridgette Williams, scored 39 points to help put the Lady Monarchs away.

However, at the half, the Lady Monarchs lead by a score of 49-47. Their tradition of winning games, after they were leading at the half fell.

The running and pressing team of Harbor established the tempo of the game in their favor.

Turnovers, and plenty of them, were the Lady Monarchs Achilles heel. They had 17 turnovers in the first half.

A team that presses the entire game wears down the opponent, physically and mentally."They can press and they are good at it," said LAVC Head Coach Doug Michelson of Harbor.

The fatigue factor began to set in and that's when the tide of the game began to change. "Harbor has three prime players and several role players," he added. Williams and the supporting cast disrupted, dismangled and eventually devastated the Lady Monarchs.

"Harbor's depth and balance seemed to take our team out of the game."
—Coach Michelson

In the second half, 22 turnovers added to the dismay of the Lady Monarchs. "I thought we had what it took to beat them," Michelson said. "Last year Kim Young, a Harbor superstar helped her team defeat Valley in the same semi-final championship game."

The only difference between the two mirrored games was the defensive pressure. "Last year they weren't as relentless with the press," Michelson said.

Williams, the second leading scorer in the state, made things worse for the Lady Monarchs, nailing 22 points in the second-half. She matched her season average of 39 points, and the win gives Harbor the opportunity to advance to the state championships.

LAVC did have their highlights as well. Amy Horst had a career high 27 points and 19 rebounds. Forward Luscinda Silva put together 12 points and seven rebounds.

"They [Harbor], were the final obstacle," said Michelson. To open the second half, Harbor went on a rampant 17-3 run to take control of the game. Michelson said his team, "practiced in preparation for the game to simulate the pressure Harbor would place on them."

"We were confident," Michelson said. "Harbors depth and balance seemed to take our team out of the game. We are both good running teams, but a team that presses the entire game can wear on the players."

The Lady Monarchs close this years' season with many accomplishments. They won 30 games and lost only five. They won the Southern Division of the Western States Conference.

Michelson's season is not over yet. In fact, as a coach, his season covers the entire year. If it's not coaching, it's recruiting or scouting or just watching a game. Michelson loves the game so much that it is enjoyable for him.

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